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SUBJECT: THIRTEEN YEARS ON, NLD CALLS ON JUNTA TO HONOR  
1990 ELECTIONS

1. (U) Summary: At a ceremony honoring the 13th anniversary of multiparty elections in Burma, the National League for Democracy, which won 392 out of the 485 elected seats, called on the regime to honor the election's results. Citing the junta's pledges from the pre- and post-election period that it would allow elected representatives to take office, the NLD lambasted the State Peace and Development Council for failing to honor these commitments. NLD leader Aung San Suu Kyi did not attend the ceremony, as she continued a month-long visit to northern Burma. Despite continuing junta harassment of her party and supporters along the route, large crowds have greeted her at every stop. Finally, there were new arrests of political activists on May 19, while others arrested in February were released. End Summary

2. (SBU) On May 27, at a crowded and sweltering ceremony at NLD headquarters, party representatives called on the SPDC to honor the results of multiparty elections held in 1990. With electricity to the building cut off (purposely?), the temperature inside soared as well wishers, press, and representatives of other political parties crowded in to hear the proceedings. Diplomats from the U.S., UK, Germany, France, Japan, and a smattering of UN agencies attended the event. Conspicuously absent were any diplomats from ASEAN countries. Speakers from the NLD and other parties held the SPDC to account for its failure to follow through on public statements over the years that it would return to the barracks and allow the elected officials to govern the country. There were tributes to elected Members of Parliament who continue to press for recognition of the elections and, as a result, have sacrificed their freedom and the well being of their families. Although 40-50 MPs-elect attended the event, a rumored larger turnout of MPs from around the country did not materialize.

ASSK Still On the Road

3. (U) NLD leader Aung San Suu Kyi, reportedly in Mandalay on her return from a trip to Kachin State, did not attend the ceremony. Her traveling party and citizens hoping to see her have been harassed and intimidated at almost every location on the trip. Large crowds of supporters have nonetheless turned out, ignoring authorities' threats of retaliation. ASSK is expected to return to Rangoon on or about June 2, in anticipation of UN Special Envoy Razali's visit from June 6-10.

New Political Arrests and Releases

4. (U) Three NLD members, including one MP-elect, were reportedly arrested in Sagaing Division May 19 for discussing rice problems with local farmers. The three were reportedly sentenced to 2 years in prison under a law dealing with public disturbances. The MP-elect, U Win Myint Aung, was the first MP-elect since 1998 to receive a prison sentence (although many have been detained or put under house arrest). The other two members were officers in the NLD Tabayin township office. We have heard reports that six other NLD members may have been arrested in the same township, but no additional information is yet available.

5. (SBU) Late-May Foreign radio broadcasts report three members of the Arakan League for democracy were released April 6 - 12. On May 20 the SPDC released Sai Nyunt Lwin, the Secretary General of the Shan Nationalities League for Democracy (SNLD) from Insein prison in Rangoon. Sai Nyunt Lwin was arrested along with several NLD members on February 8 for allegedly distributing democracy literature and for acts against the State. Sai Nyunt Lwin turned state's witness and was not charged, while those he testified against received sentences ranging from five years to life. Sai Nyunt Lwin reportedly claimed his testimony did not lead to the convictions as the others did not deny the charges against them. He is being reinstated as the SNLD's Secretary General. This episode has soured relations between the NLD and the SNLD, Burma's second largest party. SNLD Chairman Hkun Htun Oo was noticeably absent from the May 27 elections ceremony at NLD headquarters.  
McMullen